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**OWNER/OPERATOR OF PRODUCE SUPPLY BUSINESSES CHARGED
WITH MAIL FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a nine-count indictment charging FRANCES REMUS, 61, of San Diego California with two counts of mail fraud and seven counts of money laundering.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division .

According to Assistant United States Attorney Patrick K. Hanly, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that REMUS was doing business as the owner/operator of two produce supply businesses, one called Get It From The Girls ("GIFTG"); and one called Shima Produce ("Shima"). GIFTG was a California certified small business that contracted with the State of California to provide food to the Department of Corrections and other state institutions. The indictment alleges that REMUS got behind in her payments to her suppliers which led to a civil lawsuit brought by the suppliers against REMUS. As part of the lawsuit, the suppliers obtained a court order freezing her assets and imposing a Trust on her assets to insure that the suppliers were paid. The indictment further alleges that REMUS ignored the court ordered freeze on her assets, and the trust, and, instead laundered the money she received from the State into the form of cashiers checks, cash and traveler's checks. The indictment also alleges that REMUS used some of the money she received from the State to pay her personal bills via the United States mails, in violation of the court ordered freeze on her assets.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for mail fraud is 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine while the maximum penalty under federal law for money laundering is 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine .

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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